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Falling Heads

The New York Times' man-in-the-know in Washington, James Reston, reports that Allen Dulles and Chester Bowles are on their way out of top layer jobs.

This should be no surprise, except possibly for the fact they have managed to hang on as long as they have. Dulles, a carryover from the previous administration, has been under fire since the Cuban fiasco and his part, as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, in it. Bowles, undersecretary of state, is a highly controversial character and it was a question from the start of how long he could manage to stay in a sensitive post.

Nor is it likely that the heads of Dulles and Bowles will be the only ones to fall in Washington in ensuing months. Whatever else he has done or hasn't done in the area of foreign affairs, President Kennedy has taken to Washington a number of individualists or prima donnas, as you prefer, who are bound to cross swords with one another sooner or later.

The lines of authority and administration have been short-circuited by the addition of a specialist here, an expert there and the result is a mixture of wounded feelings, internal strife and bureaucratic jealousies. Those conditions consequently can lead only to turnover among the policy makers and advice givers.